SCANNER: OKAASAN
TRANSLATOR: ARYALAN
PROOFREADER: ONYXCAT
EDITOR: ROGUE11
QCER: SAYUKI & WHISTLE

天離る
A TIME LONG AGO

頼朝×義経×弁慶
Yoritomo/Yoshitune/Benkei

天誅る

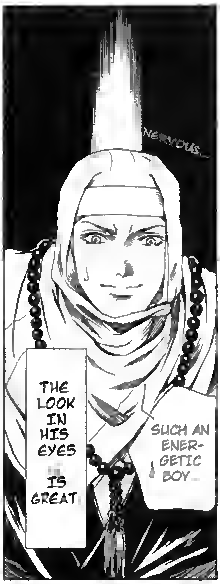
ON A MOONLIT NIGHT, A PREY THAT WAS ALREADY CAUGHT ACTUALLY ESCAPED,
HA— HA—
JUST WHEN I WAS THINKING I'VE BEEN PLAYED BY THIS MISCHIEVOUS LITTLE BRAT
WHAT'S WRONG? NOT PLAYING ANYMORE?
THEN I'M GOING HOME!
FLUTTER

STOP! I AM MUSASHIBOU BENKEI!
WHO ARE YOU?
HE DARES TO MESS WITH ME!

SHANAOU
TENGU OF KURAMA TEMPLE.
あまさか
天邪
SWEEP

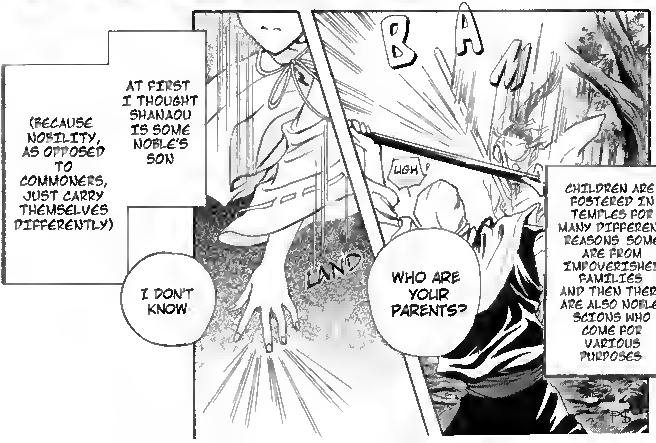
FLUTTER
SHANAOU...?
HEY, WE'RE ON A BRIDGE YOU KNOW!
MUSASHIBOU! I HAD A LOT OF FUN!
WAVE
...
HMM?

THERE ARE TENGU LIVING ON MT KURAMA
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY A LOT OF FUN...
DOHAHA
STIN-KIN-BRAT!
AFTER THAT RUMOR STARTED TO SPREAD EVEN DURING HIGH NOON NO ONE DARED TO PASS THROUGH THIS MOUNTAIN...
SHANAOU, HE'S THE BOY LEARNING UNDER KURAMA SHRINE'S TOUKOUROU RENNIN
SOON HE WILL SHAVE HIS HEAD AND TAKE VOWS AS A MONK...
IT'S A SHAME THAT HIS HAIR MUST BE SHAVED OFF,
ALTHOUGH HE'S YOUNG THAT BEAUTIFUL FACE...
MONO, IT'S NOT THAT
HIS MOTHER SHOULD BE A BEAUTY
I REALLY WANT TO SEE WHAT HIS PARENTS LOOK LIKE
D O N
OWWW


NERVOUS...
THE LOOK IN HIS EYES IS GREAT
SUCH AN ENERGETIC BOY...

THEN LET'S PLAY AGAIN!

ARE YOU ALREADY EXHAUSTED? THAT'S NO FUN.
WHAT ARE YOU, AN OLD MAN?
SWING
WHO'S AN OLD MAN!
DON'T THINK THAT BECAUSE I LOOK LIKE THIS I'VE STILL GOT PLENTY OF STRENGTH


(BECAUSE NOBILITY, AS OPPOSED TO COMMONERS, JUST CARRY THEMSELVES DIFFERENTLY)
AT FIRST I THOUGHT SHANAOU IS SOME NOBLE'S SON
I DON'T KNOW
WHO ARE YOUR PARENTS?
CHILDREN ARE FOSTERED IN TEMPLES FOR MANY DIFFERENT REASONS SOME ARE FROM IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES AND THEN THERE ARE ALSO NOBLE SCIONS WHO COME FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES
BAM
LIGH
LAND

YOU DON'T KNOW?
NO ONE IS BRAVE ENOUGH TO TELL ME, MAYBE NOT KNOWING IS BEST ...
IF I KNEW I WOULD PROBABLY BE DEAD!
YOU WOULD BE KILLED?
HE HAS A PALE INK-COLORED FLUTE, NOT FANCY BUT OF GOOD QUALITY
THAT'S CALLY DAMAGE-OUS!
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING AN ORPHAN WOULD HAVE,
AND IT'S ALSO THE PROOF OF HIS NOBLE ORIGINS.
MAYBE I'M A DEMON'S CHILD
LETTING A DEMON'S SON LEARN BUDDHISM IN A MOUNTAIN THAT TENGU INHABIT, HE WOULD PROBABLY SOONER OR LATER BECOME A MONK.

SLAM
WAS I ABANDONED?
WHY WON'T ANYONE TELL ME?
POOR CHILD ...
HIS UNRELEASED ANGER IS WREAKING HAVOC ON THIS TINY BODY
DOES HE MEAN FOR ME TO WASTE MY LIFE AWAY LIKE THIS!
THERE MUST BE SOMEONE WHO LOCKED ME IN HERE!

USING WORDS TO EXPRESS A PROMISE, TO ME THAT'S AN INCONCEIVABLE THING...
I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU,
IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME YOU KNOW!
LIKE FINDING AMONG THE STARRY SKY THAT SINGLE ONE STAR...
I'VE FINALLY FOUND IT...
HIS SMILING FACE MADE ME OBLIVIOUS TO THE TRAGEDY SOCIETY HAD MARKED FOR HIS EXISTENCE
OH RIGHT AFTER I WAS BORN, PEOPLE ALSO SAID I WAS A MONSTER, BECAUSE I WAS TOO BIG!
IT'S REALLY TOO BAD, SHAVING YOUR HAIR...
I JOINED THE MILITANT MONKS BECAUSE OF INTEREST, THAT'S HOW I GOT THIS PHYSIQUE!
WE WOULD NEVER ALLOW HIM TO BECOME A MONK!

LET GO OF SHANAOU, MUSASHI-BOU BENKEI!
WE WON'T ALLOW YOU TO COME NEAR HIM AGAIN!
WHAT DID YOU SAY!
UWAA KARAGI TENGU!? YOU'RE KIDDING ME
THEY'RE NOT ENEMIES, ITS HITACHI-BOU
HITACHI-BOU!?
AH!

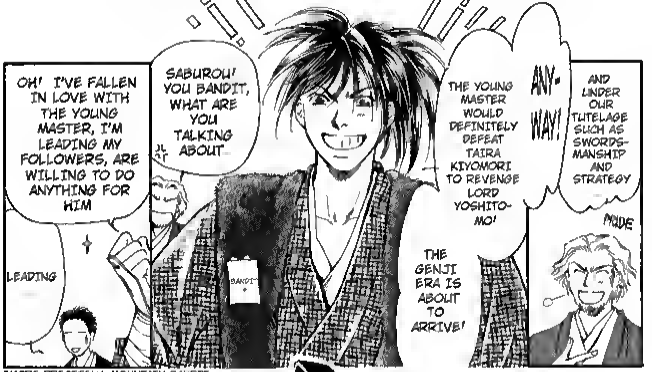
YOUR HONORABLE FATHER IS SAMANOKAMI MINAMOTO YOSHITOMO
FROM THE SOUND YOU'RE HITACHIBOU KAISON?
WHAT'S UP WITH THE L MASK
HEY!
WE ARE HITACHI-BOU KAISON AND KAMATA MASACHIKA.
AS I THOUGHT, WE COULDN'T FOOL YOU.
IT'S ALRIGHT, I LIKE HIS COURAGE AND DECISIVENESS, AND I ALSO HOPE HE CAN JOIN US.
WE HEARD A FEW THINGS ABOUT YOU WHEN WE WERE IN KYOTO
ONLY A LITTLE
DON'T GO DECIDING THINGS BY YOURSELF
NOW IS THE BEST TIME TO LET HIM KNOW HIS REAL IDENTITY

HE'S THE GENJI LEADER, WHO FOUGHT AGAINST THE HEISHI FOURTEEN YEARS AGO!
THEN THAT MAKES SHANAOU
YOU ARE THE KNOWN
GENJI'S OHZOUSHI.*
*NOTE. SHANAOU HAS THE 9TH SON OF YOSHITOMO, SINCE HE WAS NOT THE FIRST BORN, HE WAS KNOWN AS OHZOUSHI.

ALL THE MYSTERY HAS BEEN CLEARED UP
GETTING KILLED FOR KNOWING HIS PARENTAGE
BECAUSE
THE HEISHI WOULD KILL HIM!
THE REASON FOR HIDING IN THE DEEP MOUNTAINS OF KURAMA SHRINE AND CHANGING HIS NAME IS
IS BECAUSE THE TEMPLE FEARS THE HEISHI AND ALSO TO PREVENT HIM FROM BEING DISCOVERED BY THE GENJI
THE MAN WHO KILLED YOUR FATHER IS TAIRA KIYOMORI ...!!
HE IS LADY TOKIWA'S SON
YOUR MOTHER, LADY TOKIWA, IN ORDER TO RESCUE HER MOTHER-IN-LAW WHO WAS IMPRISONED BY THE HEISHI, HAD TO SURRENDER TO THE HEISHI.
MOTHER ...?
THE ONE THEY CALLED KYOTO'S MOST BEAUTIFUL, LOVED BY MINAMOTO YOSHITOMO, CAPTURED BY TAIRA KIYOMORI, BECOMING THE LOOT OF HER HUSBAND'S KILLER.
AT LEAST LET THE CHILDREN LIVE...
I WON'T LET THE GENJI BLOOD DIE HERE!
IT WAS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE LADY'S SACRIFICE, THAT YOU AND YOUR OLDER BROTHERS WERE SAVED
ALL JUST TO PROTECT HER CHILDREN.
IT'LL TAKE SOME TIME FOR THE YOUNG SHANAOU TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUTH.
THE DEAL WAS YOU THREE MUST BECOME MONKS IF YOU ARE TO BE SAVED, AND THEN YOU WERE EACH SENT TO A MONASTERY FOR FOSTERING

YOU WERE DEFINITELY NOT ABANDONED,
LORD YOSHITOMO ESPECIALLY DOTED ON YOUNG CHILDREN
LADY TOKIWA EVEN RECEIVED THE LORD'S ORDERS AND WITH YOU STILL IN DIAPERS,
SHE TOOK YOU AND YOUR TWO OLDER BROTHERS AND FLED THE HEISHI, NOT FEARING EVEN THE BITTER COLD
YOUR TWO OLDER BROTHERS HAVE ALREADY BECOME MONKS BUT IZU'S LORD
YORITOMO IS PREPARING TO GATHER TROOPS AS GENJI'S CHIEF GENERAL, YOU CAN ALSO
MASA-CHIKA! DON'T BE HASTY
RIGHT NOW SHANAOU IS A SURVIVING SON OF GENJI BLOOD,
WE HOPE THAT YOU CAN GROW UP HEALTHY
YOUR LIFE IS BEING PROTECTED BY YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER'S LOVE,
IT'S RIGHT HERE!

WHILE ON THE ROAD TO OUSHUU, HE REACHED ADULTHOOD, AND CHANGED HIS NAME TO MINAMOTO NO KUROU YOSHITSUNE
TWO YEARS LATER, AMIDST THE HEISHI'S DEMANDS THAT SHANAOU TAKE HIS VOWS AS A MONK, HE ESCAPED FROM KURAMA.
I WOULD ONLY CREATE TROUBLE FOR HER VISITING WHILE BEING HUNTED BY THE HEISHI
I HEARD SHE HAS BECOME THE WIFE OF ICHIJOU OOKURAKYOU, AND IS LIVING A PEACEFUL LIFE
YOU MUST WANT TO GO VISIT LADY TOKIWA!
LOOKING AT THE CLEAR AND FLAWLESS DROPLETS,
I UNBELIEVABLY FELT, I WILL STAY BY HIS SIDE FOREVER,
GUSH
SOB
WE'RE DONE FOR IF THE HEISHI DISCOVER WHERE WE'RE HIDING THE YOUNG MASTER,
AND THE YOUNG MASTER'S LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER
MAYBE HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO MEET HIS MOTHER
MY LIFE EXISTING ALONG WITH HIS LIFE.
AS FOR BEING A GENERAL, YOUNG MASTER YOU WOULD NOT LOSE TO HIM
I HEAR HIS CHARACTER IS PERFECTLY SUITED FOR BEING HEAD GENERAL OF THE GENJI, I WISH WE COULD SEE HIM SOON!
OF COURSE
NO MATTER WHAT I DEFINITELY WANT TO SEE MY BROTHER AT IZU


OH! I'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH THE YOUNG MASTER, I'M LEADING MY FOLLOWERS, ARE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING FOR HIM
LEADING
SABUROU! YOU BANDIT, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
BANDIT
THE YOUNG MASTER WOULD DEFINITELY DEFEAT TAIRA KIYOMORI TO REVENGE LORD YOSHITOMO!
ANY-WAY!
AND UNDER OUR TUTELAGE SUCH AS SWORDSMANSHIP AND STRATEGY
PRIDE
THE GENJI ERA IS ABOUT TO ARRIVE!

*MORE PRECISELY, MOUNTAIN BANDIT

OUSHUU HIRAIZUMI IS KNOWN FOR PRODUCING GREAT HORSES AND GOLD, A RICH NORTHERN LAND
HA HA HA
YOU WANT TO GATHER BANDITS TOGETHER!
ONE CRY FROM ME AND THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM WHEN WE CHARGE THE ENEMY!
FAR AWAY FROM THE HEISHI'S INFLUENCE, IT HAS FORMED AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY,
YOSHITSUNE HAS SPENT A FEW YEARS PEACEFULLY, UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THIS COUNTRY'S LEADER FUJIWARA HIDEHIRA
DO DO
DO DO
THE YOUNG MASTER'S HORSEMANSHIP IS MAGNIFICENT
HE NO LONGER NEEDS MY GUIDANCE

MY LORD! YOU MEAN
SATOU HIDEHISA NAOSHI BROTHERS
YOU GUYS ALSO
IT'S REALLY A SHAME TO LET HIM LEAVE... I JUST HOPE HE CAN MAINTAIN THIS PERSONALITY,
IT'S LIKE HE WAS BORN HERE, HE HAS ALREADY SURPASSED MY SONS!
EVERYONE WILL BE ENCHANTED
KUROU HE SAID YES!
MUSASHIBOU THE YOUNG MASTER HAS A SORT OF INCREDIBLE RADIANCE
BY THAT GENTLE AND WARM GLOW
BEFORE HE CHANGED NAMES, THE YOUNG MASTER'S NAME WAS SHANAOU
I HOPE UNDER THAT RADIANCE, THERE ARE NO SHADOWS
SHANAOU JUST LIKE THE CHILD OF THE SUN

FOURTH YEAR OF JISHOU, MINAMOTO YORITOMO UNDER ORDERS FROM PRINCE MOCHIHITO, RAISES AN ARMY AT IZU
FOR THE PURPOSE OF JOINING YORITOMO'S ARMY YOSHITSUNE'S GROUP RUSHES TO YORITOMO'S CAMP AT KISOGAWA
IS IT KUROU...
YOU'VE FINALLY COME, THE LAST TIME I SAW YOU YOU WERE STILL A BABY!
MY BODY IS TREMBLING MY CHEST IS SO HOT...
BRO-
FINALLY WE MEET!

YEAAAAHHHH
TOGETHER WE BROTHERS WILL DEFEAT THE HEISHI!
BEING THE CHIEF GENERAL HE CAN ONLY BOOST MORALE TO A FANATICAL LEVEL!
ALTHOUGH YORITOMO HAS A VERY COMMANDING PRESENCE,
I SHOULD SAY HE ONLY HAS THAT TALENT
MY CHARACTER IS SO MISTER
KUROU
BRO-THER
THIS IS MY YOUNGER BROTHER NORIYORI, AND ALSO YOUR OTHER OLDER BROTHER
BROTHER YORITOMO HAS THE NOBLEST BLOOD OUT OF ALL MY SIBLINGS,
HE'S BEEN RAISED TO BE GENJI'S LEADER,
THIS SORT OF RADIANCE YOUNG MASTER YOU ALSO POSSESS
A MAN WHO FROM BIRTH POSSESSES THE RADIANCE OF A RULER
HA HA HA
ME?
IS A PRANK BY FATE
JEALOUSY MAKES ME FEEL LIKE, THIS SENTIMENTAL REUNION
SABU-ROU
THE YOUNG MASTER HAS IM-MEDIATELY BEEN MESMERIZED BY THAT HANDSOME BROTHER OF HIS,
WITH GOOD REASON!

USHI-WAKA
YOU'VE BEEN CONSTANTLY ASKING FOR STORIES ABOUT FATHER
I WANT TO HEAR MORE ABOUT FATHER
BECAUSE I DON'T HAVE ANY RECOLLEC-TION ABOUT FATHER AND MOTHER,
SO
DRIP
SOB
SO SORRY
WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I HEARD SOME-ONE CALL ME BY THAT NAME ...
I DON'T REMEM-BER MOTHER'S VOICE,
AND I DON'T KNOW IF EVER SUCH A GENTLE VOICE HAS CALLED THIS BABY NAME!

BRO-
THER
....
AH
...
NNN
...

AH
USHI-WAKA
YOU'RE BEAUTI-FUL
BEFORE SIXTEEN YOU STAYED IN A TEMPLE, SO YOU SHOULD KNOW WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO!
MUSASHI-BOU
YOUNG MASTER

I'LL HELP YOU LOOSEN THE COLLAR
DRANK TOO MUCH ALCOHOL?
THERE'RE RED MARKS ON HIS NECK?
THIS IS...
B-BRO-THER ...

...
DID...
LORD YORITOMO ... FORCE YOU?
NO...
MUSASHI-BOU, DON'T BE ANGRY
I KNOW WHAT THIS IS
I DON'T KNOW HOW MANY TIMES I WAS POSITIONED IN THE TEMPLE
BUT I DIDN'T LIKE IT BECAUSE THERE WAS NO LOVE INVOLVED!
THE FIRST TIME... BEING LOVED BY SOMEONE I LOVE,
I'M VERY FORTUNATE

DO DO DO...
IT'S THE GENJI GENERAL!
CUT OFF HIS HEAD!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO SUCCEED!
MY RADIANT YOUNG MASTER STEPPED ONTO THE BATTLE FIELD
FOR HIS FATHER'S DYING REGRETS, AND LOVE FOR HIS BROTHER,
SEEING THE TEARS LEFT FROM BEING EMBRACED, HOW CAN I BLAME HIM?
FACING THIS BOY WHO DOESN'T KNOW THE [illegible] OF A RELATIVE,
HAD I SAID ANY-MORE IT WOULD HAVE SEEMED LIKE ADMON-ISHMENT,
I'M VERY FORTUNATE
CHARGE!
DODON DODON DODON

ZIIIP
MUSASHI-BOU!
I DEFINITELY WILL NOT LEAVE YOU
HEY
IT'S JUST A SCRATCH
RIP
CH! SUCH A FAIN
CLINK
SWEEP
BECAUSE I'VE ALREADY SWORN TO PROTECT HIS LIFE!

MUSASHIBOU!
YOU STILL HAVEN'T CUT OFF YOUR HAIR!
KIYACHIBOU
WHO DO YOU THINK I AM HUH
WHAT THE HELL DID YOU...
OUCH
GET OFF MY BACK! I'M THE PATIENT YOU KNOW!
HAHA HAHA!
SO WHAT.
THE GENERAL HAS A STRANGE-LOOKING BIG GUY BY HIS SIDE!
WE'RE ALL EITHER BANDITS OR MILITANT MONKS ANYWAY.
ACTUALLY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN SCARED OFF BY HIM, IT'S REALLY EXCELLENT
HEY, WE'RE NOBILITY...
YOUNG MASTER!
MASTER KUMOU!
MUSASHIBOU! YOUR INJURY
IT'S NOT SERIOUS, HE WON'T DIE!
IT KINDA HURTS THOUGH.
IF I DIED, WOULD YOU BE SAD?

FS
AH
MY
USHI-WAKA
HAH
BRO-THER
MUSA-SHIBOU
IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU
THEN I WANT TO, IN A PLACE YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT, PROTECT YOU TILL I DIE
...
JUST FOR YOU.
SUCH
THE BIG GUY CHANGED INTO A KI

SABUROU
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT
THIS ISN'T GOOD!
THE YOUNG MASTER AND LORD YORITOMO!
SOONER OR LATER, HE'LL TOSS THE YOUNG MASTER ASIDE
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
ALTHOUGH THEY GET ALONG WELL, LORD YORITOMO IS AFRAID OF THE YOUNG MASTER'S BATTLE PROWESS,
THE ELEGANT YOUNG MASTER IS LIKE A DEMON ON THE BATTLEFIELD, ANYONE WOULD WANT TO FOLLOW HIM!
AND THE SOLDIERS SAY, "IT'S FAR BETTER TO FOLLOW YOSHITSUNE THAN YORITOMO"
EVERYONE WANTS TO FIGHT UNDER AN OUTSTANDING GENERAL, AND OUR ARMY HAS NEVER LOST A BATTLE,
THIS INCREASED THE YOUNG MASTER'S REPUTATION AND POPULARITY EXCEPTIONALLY...
LORD YORITOMO IS AFRAID OF JUST THAT...

LORD YORITOMO IS AFRAID THE YOUNG MASTER WILL BETRAY HIM? THAT'S ABSURD!
TRUE, WE ALL KNOW THE YOUNG MASTER IS NOT THAT KIND OF PERSON,
BUT HOW ELSE CAN YOU EXPLAIN LORD YORITOMO'S COLD ATTITUDE WHEN IN PUBLIC?
NO MATTER HOW MANY VICTORIES YOUNG MASTER WINS, HE IS GIVEN NO REWARDS ...
FORGET ABOUT A PIECE OF KAMAKURA'S LAND. HE HASN'T EVEN GOTTEN A RESIDENCE OF HIS OWN. THE THE MASTER IS STILL LIVING IN LORD YORITOMO'S HOUSE!
THE LORD'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUNG MASTER HAS BROUGHT MUCH DISCONTENT AMONG HIS SUB-ORDINATES.
EVERY-ONE HAS NOTICED THE WRONG-NESS!
AH
AH
AH
LORD YORITOMO WILL,
SOONER OR LATER, KILL THE YOUNG MASTER
SO BEFORE THAT HAPPENS, LET'S TAKE THE YOUNG MASTER BACK TO OUSHU!!
THE YOUNG MASTER'S WISH IS ONLY TO DEFEAT THE HEISHI FOR REVENGE.
ONCE THAT WISH IS FULL-FILLED,
LET'S ALL GO BACK...
BACK TO THAT BRIGHT COUNTRY ...

HOW ARE YOU GETTING ALONG WITH LORD YORITOMO...
I CAN'T STAND IT ANY-MORE,
THE METHODS HE USES TO CONTROL YOU!
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY?
SLAP
IF HE CAN STAY ALWAYS IN OUSHUU,
THEN THE SUN'S CHILD WILL NOT LOSE HIS RADIANCE.
LORD HIDEHIRA

MUSA-SHIBOU ...
THE MAN WHO EMBRACES THIS BODY
DON'T
AH
YORITOMO'S SCENT...
DON'T SAY ANY-MORE, YOU CAN GO NOW!
SQUISH
AAH!
AH
TREMBLE
AH
I WANT TO WASH AWAY ALL THE MARKS YORITOMO LEFT...
HAH
DRIP
DRIP
NNN
SQUISH SQUISH

WHY WON'T YOU EMBRACE ME...
MUSA-SHI@O!
...
UNDER THE CLIFF IS THE HEISHI'S CAMP...
WHY DO WE ALWAYS GET THIS KIND OF BATTLE-FIELD?
STRAIGHT DOWN CLIFF! IT'S IMPOSS-IBLE...
ONLY DEER OR OTHER ANIM@LS CAN LEAP OVER THIS SORT OF CLIFF...

DO DON DO DON...
IF A DEER CAN DO IT, THEN SO CAN A HORSE
CHARGE!
THOSE WHO THINK DIFFERENTLY CAN STAY BEHIND!
HUH!
I STILL HAVE TO GO, DAMMIT!
ONCE ON A BATTLE FIELD HE BECOMES A DEMON.
EVERYONE BELIEVES AND FOLLOWS THE YOUNG MASTER.

CHARGE
DODON DODON
A SURPRISE ATTACK BY THE GENJI!
IT'S THE GENJI!
YOSHITSUNE'S ARMY WAS WELCOMED WARMLY BY THE PEOPLE OF KYOTO, AFTER WINNING THIS BATTLE.
BEFORE WHEN KYOTO WAS STILL OUR TERRITORY, MINAMOTO YOSHINAKA'S ARMY HAD DRIVEN THE HEISHI OUT, BUT THEN ALSO RAIDED AND LOOTED KYOTO'S CITIZENS, DISAPPOINTING THEIR HOPES.
AFTER THAT, YOSHINAKA TOOK CONTROL OF THE EMPEROR, FORCING HIM TO ORDER AN ATTACK ON YORITOMO
AFTER DEFEATING YOSHINAKA, YORITOMO'S ARMY WITH ITS STRICT MILITARY CODE WAS ABLE TO GAIN THE PEOPLE'S RESPECT
THAT'S KUROU, LORD YOSHITSUNE?
I THOUGHT HE'D LOOK LIKE VICTOUS GORILLA!
I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D BE SO YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL
THIS BIG VICTORY INCREASED YOSHITSUNE'S FAME. PEOPLE STARTED CALLING HIM "THE DEMON OF THE BATTLE FIELD," AND HIS ELEGANT BEAUTY CHARMED THE PEOPLE EVEN MORE.

KAMA-KURA
GO SHIRA-KAWA WANTS TO APPOINT KUROU AS KEBIISHI SAEMON NO JOU*
IF YOSHI-TSUNE, WITHOUT HAVING RECEIVED A LETTER OF RECOMMEN-DATION, ACCEPTS AN APPOINT-MENT TO A COURT POSITION,
IT WOULD LOOK AS IF HE IS DISOBEY-ING YORITOMO ...
*A COURT OFFICIAL
YOU CANNOT DO IT! WITHOUT LORD YORITOMO'S RECOMMEN-DATION, YOU CANNOT ACCEPT A COURT APPOINT-MENT!
EMPEROR GO SHIRA-KAWA ...
TO THE POINT THAT YORITOMO WOULD TURN BACK AND ATTACK YOSHINAKA.
HIS CUNNING WAS WHY YORITOMO LATER ON CALLED HIM "JAPAN'S NUMBER ONE TENGU."
LET YOSHINAKA FIGHT THE HEISHI, BECAUSE AS LONG AS YOSHINAKA WAS THERE TO MESS THINGS UP, HIS RE-LATIONSHIP WITH YORITOMO WOULD DE-TERIORATE,
MUSASHI-BOU... THIS ISN'T GOOD...
LORD YORITOMO WILL SOONER OR LATER ...
KILL THE YOUNG MASTER ?
HAS MY BROTHER GIVEN ME ANY HINTS...
I HAVE NO WAY TO REFUSE
BUT THE EMPEROR KEEPS ASKING ME...
LORD HANKAI!
LORD HANKAI!
YOSHITSUNE IS PROMOTED TO FIFTH LEVEL TAYOU HANKAN, AND PERMITTED TO ATTEND COURT SESSIONS

15
YOUR PROMOTION TO COURT DOES NOT MAKE THE LORD HAPPY!
BROTHER ...!
WHY WON'T YOU LET ME SEE YOU!
BRO-THER!
BRO-THER!
LORD KUROU!
LORD KUROU!

AND THEN GET A BEAM FROM THE CARPENTER
THOSE AWARDED CAN CHOOSE A HORSE
THE GENJI ARMY IS PERFORMING THE BEAM LIFTING CEREMONY AT KAMAKURA'S ZURUGAOKA HACHIMAN PALACE'S WAKAMIYAHOU HALL.
DAMMIT, IT'S TOO MUCH!
WE'RE ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO DEFEAT THE HEISHI—
BEFORE YORITOMO'S ANGER HAD CALMED YOSHI-TSUNE'S ARMY SEPARATED FROM THOSE WHO WERE CHASING DOWN THE ESCAPING HEISHI.
SASUKOU DON'T SAY RIDICULOUS THINGS
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE HAVING A HARD TIME WITH IT!

KUROU!
GO GET THE HORSES.
CHATTER
HE'S MAKING LORD KUROU DO THIS SORT OF TASK?
CHATTER
THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TRUE BROTHERS, COULD THERE HAVE BEEN MISCHIEF ON THE MOTHER'S SIDE
HE DEFINITELY HAS LADY TOKIWA'S BEAUTY. COULD HE ACTUALLY BE OF COMMON ORIGINS
CHATTER
IN KYOTO, HE RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT FROM EMPEROR GO SHIRAKAWA
TO LORD YORITOMO, THIS IS SAYING HE'S THE SAME AS THE HEISHI
KUROU!
ONE DAY LORD YORITOMO WILL
TO THE YOUNG MASTER
SHOCK

DAMMIT!
CLASH
YOU DID THAT ON PURPOSE, SABUROU!
I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH.
HE'S OUR YOUNG MASTER!
DON'T HIT ME
IT'S TOO MUCH!
SHUT UP! EVERYONE FEELS THE SAME.
THEY'RE TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIM...
JUST EATING AND THEN GO TO SLEEP.
MUSA-SHIBOU
YOU CAN'T SLEEP
I CAN NEVER DO THINGS RIGHT.

WHY DID YOU SUMMON ME HERE
YOUNG MASTER! LORD YORITOMO
STILL SULKING?
PLEASE DON'T TREAT ME LIKE A WOMAN!
EVERYONE SAYS THE HAUNTINGLY BEAUTIFUL YOU IS A DEMON,
ON THE BATTLEFIELD, YOUR ELEGANT HAND HOLDING SWORDS AND HORSES' REINS —
ALSO BROTHER YOU'RE TREATING ME...
AH... B..
BRO-THER..
BRO-THER ...

I LIKE THE TASTE OF BLOOD
AH...
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU KILLED
HUND-REDS
THOU-SANDS ...?
THAT'S ON YOUR BODY

TREMBLE
YOU BELONG TO ME,
SO YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DISOBEY ME
BRO-THER
AH...
LUSTFUL
MY ADOR-ABLE..
USHIWAKA ...
AH
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
Tap
AH...
AAH...

AH!
AH!
IS THIS A CURSE OF BLOOD
AH
AH
BEAUTIFUL SHANAOU WHO BELONGED ONLY TO ME
AN INNOCENT AND GLORIOUS SMILE
WHAT I FOUND WAS NOT USHIWAKA.

FLUTTER
SLIDE
YOUNG MASTER ...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING...
SPLASH
YOUNG MASTER ...!!

SPLASH
DON'T COME NEAR, I JUST WANT TO TAKE A BATH!
SPLASH
I LET MY BROTHER EMBRACE ME...
DON'T YOU WANT ME...?
OR,
CAN YOU CLEAN THIS DIRTIED BODY...

WHY WON'T YOU EMBRACE ME?
YOU'VE SAID IT BEFORE,
IF THERE IS NO LOVE
THEN EVEN IF I AM EMBRACING YOU,
I CANNOT POSSESS YOUR HEART

WHY WON'T YOU CUT YOUR HAIR
BECAUSE I SWORE TO PROTECT YOU FOREVER
YOU'RE A BAD MONK YOU KNOW!
HA HA HA
YOUNG MASTER
YOU DON'T NEED TO COMMAND THAT
BENKEI
STAY WITH ME FOREVER

AH... IS THIS HOW I WAS CALLED... BUT I HAVE FORGOTTEN MOTHER'S FACE AND VOICE
USHIWAKA
SO...
USHIWAKA
WHOSE VOICE IS THIS
I DON'T KNOW IF EVER SUCH A GENTLE VOICE HAS CALLED THIS BABY NAME!
BROTHER...
HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE YOU KILLED?
I LIKE THE TASTE OF BLOOD THAT'S ON YOUR BODY...

あまさか
天涯

IT WAS ... A DREAM ...
AH
MY ADORABLE USHIWAKA
BROTHER ALWAYS CALLED ME BY THAT BABY NAME WHEN WE WERE ALONE
IOKU
USHIWAKA
HE USES THESE KIND OF METHODS TO CONTROL YOU...

SLAM
HEY DID YOU HEAR?
THE ARMY LED BY LORD NORIYORI STILL HAVEN'T CONQUERED KYUSHU YET, THEY'RE STILL FIGHTING,
IF IT WAS US WE WOULD'VE DEFEATED THEM AGES AGO
LORD YORITOMO IS TOO NICE TO LORD NORIYORI, WHEN THEY RETREATED HE IMMEDIATELY SENT UP MORE SUPPLIES TO SUPPORT THEM,
IN COMPARISON, THE WAY HE TREATS HIS HALF-BROTHER, OUR YOUNG MASTER, IS TOO STRICT.
WHEN WILL THIS SITUATION CHANGE FOR THE BETTER?
THE YOUNG MASTER ACCEPTED THE COURT APPOINTMENT WITHOUT LORD YORITOMO'S RECOMMENDATIONS,
IT'S NO WONDER THE LORD IS ANGRY
BUT AS LONG AS WE WERE CAMPED IN KYOTO, THERE WAS NO WAY TO REJECT THE OFFER. CAN'T THE LORD UNDERSTAND THAT?
OI, HIDESHI, DON'T GET SO EXCITED
THIS ALSO PROVES THE YOUNG MASTER IS VERY ACCOMPLISHED!
HE POSSESSES UNDEFEATABLE GENIUS AND ELEGANT APPEARANCE!
AREN'T YOU ANGRY AT THAT TOO, SABUROU!
NAOSHI, YOU BROTHERS REALLY ARE ALIKE...
AND THAT'S WHY THE ENTIRE KYOTO WANTS TO SEE LORD HANKAN'S FACE.
EVERY TIME HE GOES OUT IT BECOMES A BIG EVENT

HE WOULDN'T! NO MATTER WHAT THE YOUNG MASTER IS STILL HIS BROTHER!
THAT'S RIGHT, IF HE THINKS OF SIDING WITH THE COURT AND BETRAYING KAMAKURA, HE WILL BE IMPRISONED
AND THE HOSPITALITY WE ARE RECEIVING IS TO LORD YORITOMO, NOT A GOOD THING
THAT'S THE PROBLEM, IF THE YOUNG MASTER'S FAME INCREASES, MORE PEOPLE WILL TRY TO GET CLOSER.
WHAT IF SOMEONE IS DELIBERATELY SLANDERING HIM?
GOT LOTS OF PLOTS
THAT BASTARD
KAJIWARA KAGETOKI
HMM.
LORD NORIYORI ISN'T INCOMPETENT. HIS STRATEGIES ARE EXCELLENT.
HE CAN TURN WHAT EVERYONE THINKS IS AN UNFAVORABLE SITUATION INTO A VICTORY
POWER IN KYOTO, YOU BECOME A THREAT TO KAMAKURA.

ZUUP
EVEN YOU'RE HERE TO NAG ME, MUSASHIBOU!
PLEASE DON'T DRINK SO MUCH!
WHAT... NOTHING ELSE TO SAY?
YOU'RE SUCH A LOYAL ....
FLUTTER

WHY WON'T YOU EMBRACE ME, MUSASHIBOU ...
DON'T YOU WANT ME...?
I COULD NOT GET AWAY FROM THERE, BECAUSE YOUR VOICE IMPRISONED ME.
MY CRAZED HEART WITH ITS UNENDING JEALOUSY.
YOU BELONG TO ME,
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO DISOBEY ME, ADORABLE USHIWAKA
AND AFTERWARDS IN KYOTO, FAR AWAY FROM KAMAKURA
YOU STARTED TO CONSTANTLY TEMPT ME.
YOU CLEARLY KNOW MY TRUE FEELINGS
AH
NGNN
AH

YOU WERE SEEING EMBRACED BY HIM IN KAMAKURA PALACE.
THAT NIGHT ...
AH ...
HAH ...

WHY WON'T YOU CUT YOUR HAIR ...
I SWORE TO PROTECT YOU FOREVER ...
LET ME BE CHILD-ISH.
GRAB
SLIT

BUT YOU STILL PLAY WITH ME

HAH

NNNN

TREMBLE

HAH

YOU STILL DIDN'T DO IT TO THE END...
DO YOU DISLIKE ME..?
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO DO IT?
NEVER-MIND
YOU CAN GO
YOU STILL CAN'T FORGET,
HOW IT FELT TO BE EMBRACED BY HIM

FS
IF THE BATTLE GOES ON, THEY CAN ONLY LOSE ...
JUST SEND KUROU!
THEN ...
KAMAKURA
IF THIS GOES ON NORIYORI'S ARMY WILL BE DEFEATED,
BOTH SOLDIERS AND SUPPLIES ARE NOT ENOUGH.
IF WE LOSE WE WOULD LOSE EVERY-THING.
YOSHITSUNE, WHO IS STATIONED IN KYOTO, ONCE AGAIN RECEIVES ORDERS TO CHASE AFTER THE HEISHI.
AN ORDER FROM BRO-THER?

THEY KNOW, WITHOUT US THERE'S NO WAY OF DEFEATING THE HEISHI!
THE LORDS OF KAMAKURA FINALLY UNDER-STAND!
HIS ANGER FINALLY HAS BEEN CALMED!
HIS EXPRESSION IMMEDIATELY TURNS INTO THAT OF A WARRIOR.
WE WILL DEFINITELY WIN,
AND WE WILL TAKE BACK THE YOUNG EMPEROR AND THE THREE SACRED ITEMS
BUT WITHOUT A NAVY AGAINST THE SEA-FARING HEISHI,
IF WE MEET THEM ON WATER WE WILL LOSE
WE DEEPLY BELIEVE IF THE YOUNG MASTER IS HERE VICTORY WILL BE CERTAIN
EVERYONE'S EXPRESSION IS FILLED WITH TRUST,
THE FACT THAT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NUMBER OF SOLDIERS THE TWO SIDE HAVE IS SO GREAT,
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO ATTACK THEM
ENJOYING THE FREEDOM OF COMMANDING AN ARMY AND TAKING WINS
MUSASHIBOU SOMEWHERE IN MY SUBCONSCIOUS MAYBE I AM ENJOYING FIGHTING,

WE TAUGHT THE YOUNG YOU SWORD FIGHTING AND STRATEGY,
WHILE EMPHASIZING REVENGE FOR GENJI
THIS IS HOW YOU WERE RAISED
RESPONSIBLE FOR PEOPLE'S LIVES
WE LET THE YOUNG MASTER UNDERSTAND
THE WAY OF SURVIVAL THAT TO HIM SHOULD BE OF USE
THAT'S WHY WE WILL PROTECT HIM,
AND NOT LET HIS LIFE BE LOST
LOOK! THE YOUNG MASTER, STANDING AND LOOKING UPON THE BATTLE-FIELD,
IS GOD-LIKE

I AM WAITING FOR A GOOD WIND, IT WON'T WORK IF IT'S NOT DURING A VIOLENT STORM.
LORD KAJIWARA!
ARE YOU INSANE!
GOING OUT TO SEA IN THIS VIOLENT WEATHER...
YOU EVEN WANT TO SEND A TROOP THAT IS SMALLER THAN THE ENEMY'S INTO THE BATTLEFIELD...
MY LORD DO YOU NOT UNDERSTAND BASIC STRATEGY?
YOU'LL CAPSIZE BEFORE YOU CATCH THE WIND!
WE DO NOT NEED ANOTHER SUCH OFFICIAL IN KAMAKURA
THAT POSITION WAS NOT APPROVED BY LORD YORITOMO.
TO ME, ONLY LORD YORITOMO IS MY YOUNG MASTER
HEY, SHUT UP! A RANPIT IS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK HERE
COULD YOU REFER TO HIM AS LORD HANKAN?
LORD KAJIWARA, THE YOUNG MASTER HAS BEEN APPOINTED AND IS ALLOWED TO ATTEND COURT.
THAT OL' MAN
*THUNDER
DEMON— THAT INSTANT WHEN HE IS NO LONGER A WAR GOD—
MANY TIMES, BECAUSE OF THAT INSTANT, WE HAD ALMOST LOST OUR LIVES
LIGHTNING

I WILL NOT LET THE TEN THOUSAND SOLDIERS FROM KAMAKURA DIE AT SEA!
TEN THOUS-AND...
EVEN TEN THOUSAND WOULD NOT BE ENOUGH!
IF YOU WON'T, THEN JUST MY TROOPS WILL BE ENOUGH.
HEY, HOW MANY MEN DO WE HAVE LEFT...
AROUND 150...
AND THE ENEMY?
THEY ESTIMATE GREATER THAN TWELVE THOUSAND
THIS WILL BE ENOUGH
IS THIS STILL THE AMBUSH THAT ORIGINALLY INCLUDED THE TEN THOUSAND MEN FROM KAJIWARA?
PUT THE HORSES AND RATIONS ON THE BOAT AND PREPARE TO PUSH OFF!
FAST!

THIS IS NOT A RATIONAL COMMAND!
LORD KAJIWARA, PLEASE RECONSIDER!
MUSASHI-BOU,
IT'S REALLY A SHAME LETTING A MAN LIKE YOU DIE FOR NO GOOD REASON!
ARE YOU ALSO HIS COMFORT WHEN ALONE IN HIS ROOM?
WHAT'S THE MEANING BEHIND THE LONG HAIR HIDING UNDER YOUR HOOD,
YOU NEVER LEAVE HIS SIDE DURING BATTLE,
YOU EVEN BODILY SHIELD HIM,
COULD IT BE THAT YOU'RE INFATUATED WITH HIM?
HOW DARE YOU DISRESPECT THE YOUNG MASTER!
DON'T MISUNDERSTAND, I HAVE NO ILL-WILL
TO PUT IT BETTER
THIS IS A PREFERENCE THAT EVERYONE SHARES
I UNDERSTAND LORD KUROU HAS NO AMBITIONS,
BUT THIS CAN BECOME DANGEROUS

HIS BLIND LOVE FOR LORD YORITOMO, LEADS HIM TO ACTION
RIGHT, MUSASHI-BOU?
ONE DAY, THAT WILL TURN INTO HATE,
SINCE LORD YORITOMO ALREADY TREATS HIM LIKE THAT.
AND ONE DAY WHEN THEY OFFICIALLY STAND AGAINST EACH OTHER?
LORD KUROU HAS ALREADY DISCOVERED IT?
HE HAS JUST BEEN A PAWN FOR YORITOMO,
THIS IS WHAT I'VE BEEN AFRAID OF...
HIS UNCARING OF HIS OWN STANDING,
AND NON-EXISTENT AMBITION FOR THE FUTURE, IT'S THIS NAIVETE THAT IS DANGEROUS
THAT'S RIGHT HE'S ALREADY DISCOVERED EVERYTHING, EVEN THAT HIS LOVE IS UNREQUITED...
LET ME BE CHILDISH
MADNESS BECAUSE OF LOVE WILL ONLY LEAD TO SELF-DESTRUCTION, THIS I WIL NOT BE PART OF
AND THAT IS WHY,
IT CANNOT EMBRACE HIM!
BECAUSE HE'S FILLED WITH INSECURITY AND LONELINESS THAT'S WHY HE STARTED TO SEDUCE ME
BETTER IF IT WERE ONLY BROTHERLY LOVE, BUT EVEN THAT IS ABOUT TO BE SHATTERED.

IT WOULD ONLY... HURT YOU.
EVEN IF I EMBRACE HIM GREEDILY WE WON'T BE SATISFIED BY IT
EVEN WHEN I LOVE YOU SO MUCH THAT IT HURTS...
NO MATTER HOW MUCH...
I STILL HAVE NO WAY TO POSSESS YOUR HEART ...
I CAN ONLY SEAL YOUR LIPS
FROM CRYING OUT HIS NAME ...

IN THE VIOLENT STORM, IT TOOK YOSHITSUNE'S ARMY FOUR HOURS TO REACH KATSUURA.
FROM WITHIN YASHIMA, WE TOOK A SHORT-CUT AND STARTED THE AMBUSH.
DO DON
DO DON
BOW TAUT
KUROU YOSHI-TSUNE!
MY LORD!

KAMAKURA
KUROU YOSHITSUNE'S ARMY WON!
ONLY USING 150 MEN? IMPOSSIBLE!
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TEN THOUSAND MEN WITH KAJIWARA?
WHEN KAJIWARA COMMANDING THE BATTLE SHIP'S ARRIVED AT YASHIMA, HE IMMEDIATELY RECEIVED THE NEWS THAT THE HEISHI HAD BEEN DEFEATED
COMPARED TO THE ENTRENCHED BATTLE AT KYUSHU AND KAJIWARA'S LOSS YOSHITSUNE'S REFRESHING BATTLE STRATEGY GAINED THE PEOPLE'S ATTENTION
HOW WILL LORD KAJIWARA EXPLAIN?
HA HA HA
DEMON-LIKE LORD KUROU WHO LOOKS LIKE A YOUNG BOY SO DELICATE HE WOULDN'T EVEN BE ABLE TO PULL A BOW.
HE DEFEATED THE POWERFUL HEISHI, IN KYOTO HE'S SAID TO BE AN INCREDIBLY POPULAR PERSONAGE!

ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL WIN FOR KUROU,
WHAT A NUIS-ANCE.
HE'S ATTRACTING TOO MUCH ATTENTION ...

HIDESHI!

STRUCK

HOW IS NAOSHI ?
MY BROTHER, HIDESHI, IS VERY FORTUNATE. HE FINALLY HAS PROVEN HIS LOYALTY BY PROTECTING THE YOUNG MASTER WITH HIS LIFE.
NAOSHI IS FINE,
HE'S WORRIED ABOUT YOU!

BUT THIS BEHAVIOR GIVES AN IMPRESSION OF HEROISM,
A GENERAL CANNOT BE AT THE FRONTLINE DURING BATTLE.
THIS CAN RAISE THE ARMY'S MORALE.
AND YOU TOO, STILL NAGGING NONSTOP
THOSE TWO HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL FROM WHEN WE WERE IN OUSHUU
IF I DON'T STOP HIM,
I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIM ANYMORE
ONE DAY, WE'LL ALL GO BACK,
IN ORDER TO PROTECT ME, WHO WAS STANDING AT THE FRONTLINE,
HIDESHI WAS SHOT AND KILLED
BACK TO OUSHUU
JUST LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE LOVE PURIFIED BY
HE SUCCESSFULLY PROTECTED THE YOUNG MASTER
HIDESHI'S DEATH GAVE ME A HEROIC AND POIGNANT FEELING

OFFERING UP LIFE, JUST FOR BEING ABLE TO LIVE IN THE YOUNG MASTER'S HEART FOREVER.
YOU DON'T NEED TO PROTECT ME SO DEDICATEDLY.
LET ME ENJOY THE BATTLE!
BROTHER SAYS I HAVE THE SCENT OF BLOOD ...
AND ALSO I'VE KILLED COUNTLESS PEOPLE... HUNDREDS ... THOUSANDS ...
YOUNG MASTER!
EVEN YOU, COULD BE KILLED BECAUSE OF ME...
SOONER OR LATER NAOSHI TOO, AND SABUROH AND HITACHIIOH ...
HIDESHI IS ONE OF THOSE ...
YOU CANNOT THINK LIKE THAT.
IT WILL MAKE YOU UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE BATTLEFIELD!
THE FIGHT IS NOT OVER YET!
BATTLE

YOUR SCAR... IT'S GOTTEN A LOT PALER
YOU ONCE SAID YOU WOULD ALWAYS BE AT MY SIDE,
SO EVEN WHEN YOU GOT HURT,
I NEVER HAD THOUGHT I COULD LOSE YOU
I'M JUST AFRAID IT COULD HAPPEN

THE LOSS OF HIDESHI FILLED HIS HEART WITH LONELINESS AND FRENZY
WHY ... ARE YOU CRYING?
SO YOU STILL WON'T EMBRACE ME...?
AS THINGS ARE NOW, I CAN ONLY TELL MYSELF NOT TO HESITATE
NO... IF I EMBRACE YOU...
AND SERVILITY CARESSES ME, YOU NEVER
ONLY WHEN I REQUEST IT, WOULD YOU FOLLOW ORDERS,
JUST HOLDING ME TENDERLY WOULD BE FINE
JUST LIKE THE TIMES WHEN YOU STILL CALLED ME SHANAOU
I CAN'T
WHY
I CAN'T EMBRACE YOU... I WOULD LOSE CONTROL...

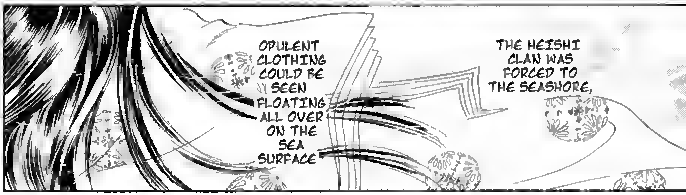
AHH
...
BENKEI
...
BENKEI
—
YOU SHOULDN'T CRY LIKE THIS,
LIKE... YOU'RE A CHILD.
I CAN NO LONGER RESIST

IF ONLY I COULD HOLD ON TO THE CHILD IN YOU EVEN TIGHTER
AHHH
PERHAPS MY EMBRACE CAN HELP TO RELIEVE THE BURDEN OF THOSE LONELY AND INSECURE THOUGHTS
I'VE ALREADY LOVED YOU FOR SO LONG
PERHAPS THEN YOU WON'T CRY SO SORROWFULLY.

THE FIRST TIME, IN A LONG WHILE, YOU REACHED OUT WITH BOTH ARMS TO ME.
THE FIRST TIME OUR BODIES TOUCH, SKIN TO SKIN,
IF I JUST MOVE A BIT I CAN BRING OUT A SIGH FROM YOU.
EYES FILLED WITH SORROW AND PAIN

AAH
I WON'T NEED ANY WORDS
IT'LL BE ENOUGH TO HOLD HIM

AT DANNOURA, THE HEISHI FINALLY MET THEIR DEFEAT.
AFTER THE BATTLE AT YASHIMA, NAVY SQUADRONS FROM ALL OVER JOINED THE GENJI ARMY,


OPULENT CLOTHING COULD BE SEEN FLOATING ALL OVER ON THE SEA SURFACE
THE HEISHI CLAN WAS FORCED TO THE SEASHORE,

SABU-ROU
STILL NOT ABLE...
HEY! WAKE UP! WHERE IS THE YOUNG EMPEROR!

THE SACRED SWORD, ONE OF THE THREE SACRED ITEMS OF THE EMPEROR,
ALSO SUNK, NEVER TO BE RECOVERED
IT'S TOO PITIFUL
THE CHILD EMPEROR ANTOKU SUNK WITH HIS GRANDMOTHER DOWN TO THE SEA
BECAUSE OF THIS BATTLE'S SUCCESS, THE EMPEROR ONCE AGAIN AWARDED YOSHITSUNE RAISING HIM TO A FOURTH LEVEL GOVERNMENT POSITION.

EVERY-THING WOULD'VE BEEN FINE IF YOU'D STAYED FOREVER IN MY HANDS.
ADORA-BLE KUROU.
YOSHINAKA, THEN THE HEISHI DOES HE NOW WISH TO SWALLOW UP KAMAKURA AS WELL...
THE EMPEROR RE...LY IS USING KUROU.
DO YOU FEEL SAD?

YORITOMO COULD NO LONGER FORGIVE YOSHITSUNE, WHO WAS STATIONED AT KYOTO AND RECEIVING POWER.
BROTHER

HMPH
I WON'T LET YOU FALL INTO THAT TENGU'S, GOSHIRAKAWA, HANDS, AND BECOME AN UGLY WORM, FED FAT ON POWER
LET BIG BROTHER END YOUR BEAUTIFUL LIFE,
MY ADORABLE USHIWAKA
NOT LONG AFTER, YORITOMO STARTED TO ATTACK YOSHITSUNE
USABUROU!
MUSASHIBOU,
LEAVE QUICKLY YOU MUST STAY BY THE YOUNG MASTER'S SIDE UNTIL THE END!
SABUROU!
DON'T DIE!
SNAP
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO
AAAHHHHH

AND THEN ADHERING TO EVERYONE'S WISHES,
IN THE REMEMBERED NORTHERN COUNTRY,
CLINK
WE WELCOMED THE LAST DAY TOGETHER
IN ACCORDANCE TO SOMETHING MUSASHIBOU BENKEI SAID BEFORE...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU DIE,

IF THAT'D MAKE YOU SAD, THEN I WON'T LET YOU SEE IT
I WILL PROTECT YOU UNTIL I DIE.

天降る／おわり

AMASAKARU BY AZUMI MOKA

CHARACTERS:

MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE = SHANAOU = KURAMA NO TENGU = USHIWAKA (BABY NAME, MEANS COW'S CHILD) = KUROU (MEANS NINTH SON OR 9S BOY)
MUSASHIBOU BENKEI
MINAMOTO YORITOMO = SUKE-DONO = KAMAKURA-DONO
HITACHIBOU KAISON
KAMATA MASACHIKA
SATOU BROTHERS CHIDESHI, NAOSHIO
SABUROU
MINAMOTO NORIYORI

NOTE: FOR MOST OF THE CHARACTERS, SUCH A MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE, IN THE JAPANESE ORIGINAL THERE IS ACTUALLY A "NO" IN THE MIDDLE OF THEIR NAME (SO MINAMOTO YOSHITSUNE WOULD BE MINAMOTO NO YOSHITSUNE). "NO" IS A PARTICLE THAT CAN INDICATE POSSESSION OR DESCRIPTION, SO THE NAME WOULD MEAN YOSHITSUNE OF CLAN MINAMOTO I DECIDED FOR AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION, IT WAS NOT NEEDED

NOTE: I THINK ANY NAME WITH A "BOU" ATTACHED TO IT, THAT BOU BASICALLY MEANS MONK

NOTE: I LIKE TO COMPLETELY ENGLISH-FY MY TRANSLATION, ALTHOUGH I DO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT DON'T SURVIVE THE TRANSLATION VERY WELL JUST IF YOU'RE CURIOUS, YOSHITSUNE ACTUALLY REFERS TO YORITOMO AS "ANIHE" WHICH MEANS OLDER BROTHER UP ABOVE, OR JUST NOBLE OLDER BROTHER AND BENKEI (PLUS OTHER OF YOSHITSUNE'S FOLLOWERS) CALL YOSHITSUNE "WAGAKIMI", WHICH MEANS MY LORD

DICTIONARY AND INTERESTING FACTS---
TENGU: MINOR KAMI OR GODS OF JAPANESE FOLKLORE USUALLY HUMANOID CREATURES WITH LONG CROW-LIKE BEAKS (KARASU TENGU), OR LONG NOSES (YAMABUSHI TENGU) THAT INHABIT MOUNTAINS AND FORESTS THEY HAVE A CAPRICIOUS AND OFTEN VENGEFUL NATURE, BEING VERY INTOLERANT OF THE CORRUPT

MT KURAMA (KURAMAYAMA): A MOUNTAIN IN JAPAN, NORTH OF KYOTO IT AS A FAMOUS SHRINE, WHICH HOLDS A FIRE FESTIVAL EVERY YEAR. A LEGEND HAS IT THAT THE FORESTS SURROUNDING IT ARE FULL OF TENGU

BENKEI: LEGEND HAS IT THAT MUSASHIBOU BENKEI WAS A HUGE MAN, VERY TALL. HE JOINED AN ORDER OF MILITANT MONKS AT A YOUNG AGE, AND BEFORE HE MET YOSHITSUNE, HE HELD GUARD BY THE GOJYO BRIDGE IN KYOTO, AND UNARMED EVERY WARRIOR WHO PASSED THE BRIDGE, TAKING THEIR SWORDS HE HAD ALREADY COLLECTED 999 SWORDS, WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO TAKE YOSHITSUNE'S SWORD, AND WAS DEFEATED BY HIM. AFTER THAT HE SWORE TO SERVE AND PROTECT YOSHITSUNE TILL HIS DEATH

GENJI AND HEISHI:
DURING THE TIME OF MINAMOTO NO YOSHITSUNE'S FATHER, IT WAS THE HEISHI (OR MORE COMMONLY KNOWN, DAI HEIKE) THAT HELD CONTROL OF THE IMPERIAL COURT. YOSHITSUNE'S FATHER, MINAMOTO NO YOSHITOMO, ALONG WITH ANOTHER MAN HAD TRIED TO OVERTHROW THE HEISHI AND TAKE CONTROL. HE WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, AND THE THEN LEADER OF THE HEISHI, TAIRA NO KIYOMORI, DEFEATED AND KILLED A MAJORITY OF GENJI CLAN'S MEN. HE HOWEVER LEFT THREE OF YOSHITOMO'S SONS ALIVE, AND ONLY EXILED THEM TO VARIOUS MONASTERIES AROUND THE COUNTRY. KIYOMORI ESSENTIALLY LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR HIS OWN DEFEAT

WHEN THE SONS HAD MATURED INTO ADULTHOOD, EMPEROR GO-SHIRAKAWA HAD ISSUED AN ORDER, CALLING FOR THE GENJI TO DEFEAT THE HEISHI. WITH IMPERIAL SUPPORT, SEVERAL MINAMOTO CLANSMEN CAME FORWARD TO LEAD, BUT IT WAS ULTIMATELY MINAMOTO NO YORITOMO WHO SUCCEEDED. TOGETHER WITH HIS TWO YOUNGER BROTHERS, NORIYORI AND YOSHITSUNE, HE WAGED WAR ON BOTH THE HEISHI AND ALSO A FEW GENJI CLANSMEN WHO RESISTED HIS CLAIM TO POWER

AFTER SEVERAL DECISIVE VICTORIES, THE HEISHI WERE WIPED OUT, GENJI TOOK CONTROL OF THE COURT. YORITOMO BECAME SHOGUN AND HELD ALL MILITARY POWER. BEING OF A VERY SUSPICIOUS NATURE, YORITOMO THEN WENT ON TO KILL OFF ALMOST EVERY MALE RELATIVE WHO COULD SUPPLANT HIM, INCLUDING YOSHITSUNE AND NORIYORI.

FOR A MORE PROFESSIONAL AND DETAILED HISTORY LESSON ON BOTH THE WAR BETWEEN GENJI AND HEISHI
HTTP://WWW.SAMURAI-ARCHIVES.COM/GEMPEIWAR.HTML
HTTP://WWW.SAMURAI-ARCHIVES.COM/YOSHITSUNE.HTML
THEY WERE VERY HELPFUL AND INFORMATIVE